

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1st Quarter 2001

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

During the first quarter of 2001, a total of 219,000 arrivals were registered against 233,900 departures, i.e. an excess of 14,900 departures over arrivals. Compared to the same period of year 2000, these figures represent a slight decrease (less than 1%) in arrivals and an increase of 2% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 4% of both arrivals and departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

Total arrivals by air included 2,090 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. More than a third(700) of these excursionists, came from Reunion Island while 340 (16%) came from France. Total arrivals by sea also included 4,770 "cruise excursionists" (2,980 passengers and 1,790 crews) aboard 7 cruise ships which visited our port during the first three months of 2001.

(ii) *Mauritian Residents*

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad during the first quarter of 2001 went down by 1% to stand at 37,760 compared to 38,140 for the same period of previous year. The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: India (+23%), Malagasy Republic (+12%), Republic of South Africa (+4%), United Kingdom (+3%), Reunion Island (+0.4%), France (-3%), Saudi Arabia (-8%), Singapore (-11%) and Australia (-19%). Table 2 shows a more detailed distribution of countries visited.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals during the first quarter, increased by around 2%, from 167,690 in 2000 to 170,530 in 2001. This was attributable mainly to growths from some major generating countries such as France, United Kingdom, and Germany. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.

Around 92% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 3% were on

business/conference trips, and another 3% were in transit (Table 4).

Total arrivals from Europe, which accounts for 69% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 2% to 117,730 during the first quarter of 2001 against 115,270 in the corresponding quarter of 2000. Arrivals from France, our leading market, increased slightly by 0.5% to reach a figure of 56,320 at the end of March 2001. Growths were also noted in arrivals from the other major generating countries, namely United Kingdom(+15%) and Germany (+6%) while arrivals from Italy went down by 5%. Trends among the other countries were as follows: Sweden (+16%), Netherlands (+5%), Belgium (+1%), Spain (-2%), Switzerland (-6%) and Austria (-9%),.

For the first quarter of 2001, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 24% of total tourist arrivals, decreased by 3% to 40,650. This was mainly the result of declines in arrivals from the major generating countries like Reunion Island (-4%) and Republic of South Africa (-1%). Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Seychelles (+21%), Zimbabwe (+7%) , Comoros (+5%), Kenya (+3%) and Malagasy Republic(-17%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian market grew by 15% for the period under review and constituted 5% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, went up by 22% to attain 3,550. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: Hong Kong (+67%), People's Republic of China (+65%), Malaysia (+48%), Japan (-31%) and Singapore (-30%).

Arrivals from Oceania increased by 25%, mostly influenced by a 24% rise in arrivals from Australia.

An increase of 33% was noted in arrivals from America. This was the result of growths from USA (+28%), Canada (+25%) and other American countries (+43%).

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first quarter of 2001 is estimated at 1.68 million, representing an increase of 2% over the same period of the preceding year.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 2001, there was a total of 95 registered hotels in operation. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 8,670 with 17,800 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first three months of 2001 averaged 71% while the bed occupancy rate was 62% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 34 (36% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 6,330 with 12,840 bedplaces, representing 73% of total room capacity and 72% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first quarter of 2001 was of the order of 75% while bed occupancy rate averaged 66% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Column 4 of Table 6 shows the evolution of Tourism Receipts. Gross tourism receipts for the first quarter of 2001 is estimated at 4,580 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 15% over the same period in 2000. The average receipts per tourist during that period was 26,880 rupees against 23,760 rupees in 2000.

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 18,570 at the end of March 2000, that is 9% higher than last year. Of this number, 71% or 13,270 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2001

Based on the trend during the first three months of the year and patterns of preceding years, total tourist arrivals for the year 2001 is expected to be in the region of 700,000, with gross receipts of the order of 15,500 million rupees.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs.

Port Louis

May 2001

Explanatory Notes

1. Tourist

A tourist is defined as a non-resident staying for more than 24 hours but less than a year, who is not involved in any gainful occupation in the country during his/her stay.

2. Transit

A transit passenger is one who stops over in the country for flight connections to other destinations. There are two types of transit passengers:

Type I : Passengers who do not leave the transit area of the airport or the harbour.

Type II : Passengers who do leave the airport or harbour and stay in the country for more than 24 hours but only for flight connection purposes.

Only Type II transit passengers, as defined above, are included in the definition of "Tourists".

3. Excursionist or Same-day Visitor

Excursionists are non-resident visitors, other than those who do not leave the airport, who stay in the country for less than 24 hours. They also include passengers as well as crews of *cruise ships*.

4. Tourist Nights

"Tourist nights" means the total number of nights spent in the country by tourists, as defined above, during the period under review.

5. Large Hotels

Large hotels are well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms.

6. CIS

CIS denotes the **Commonwealth of Independent States**, which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1999 - 2001

Month	1999		2000		2001	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	77,871	88,105	81,209	88,227	83,006	96,568
February	57,371	59,233	66,835	68,718	62,662	63,034
March	65,278	62,785	71,630	71,610	73,365	74,278
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>200,520</u>	<u>210,123</u>	<u>219,674</u>	<u>228,555</u>	<u>219,033</u>	<u>233,880</u>
April	58,456	63,173	74,386	72,319		
May	54,703	52,609	65,261	64,174		
June	51,604	51,034	55,850	57,364		
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>164,763</u>	<u>166,816</u>	<u>195,497</u>	<u>193,857</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	365,283	376,939	415,171	422,412		
July	61,520	51,412	72,579	58,928		
August	76,587	80,516	80,378	88,587		
September	55,333	55,202	62,100	64,646		
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>193,440</u>	<u>187,130</u>	<u>215,057</u>	<u>212,161</u>		
October	70,698	63,990	76,488	66,158		
November	73,541	73,674	73,915	78,612		
December	74,969	62,383	84,591	66,696		
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>219,208</u>	<u>200,047</u>	<u>234,994</u>	<u>211,466</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	412,648	387,177	450,051	423,627		
Whole Year	777,931	764,116	865,222	846,039		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - March of 2000 and 2001**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter 2000	1st Quarter 2001	% Change
EUROPE	11,087	10,364	-6.5
Belgium	378	48	-87.3
France	4,856	4,703	-3.2
Germany	403	455	12.9
Italy	1,062	743	-30.0
Switzerland	515	481	-6.6
United Kingdom	3,812	3,918	2.8
Other European	61	16	-73.8
AFRICA	14,852	15,202	2.4
Kenya	177	65	-63.3
Malagasy Republic	1,525	1,712	12.3
Reunion	9,093	9,130	0.4
Seychelles	767	767	0.0
S. Africa, Rep. of	2,880	2,981	3.5
Zimbabwe	258	220	-14.7
Other African	152	327	115.1
ASIA	10,212	10,643	4.2
Hong Kong SAR*	603	857	42.1
India	3,417	4,216	23.4
Malaysia	1,123	979	-12.8
Singapore	2,958	2,636	-10.9
Saudi Arabia	2,107	1,934	-8.2
Other Asian	4	21	425.0
OCEANIA	1,580	1,279	-19.1
Australia	1,580	1,279	-19.1
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
AMERICA	43	34	-20.9
U.S.A	6	5	-16.7
Canada	36	29	-19.4
Other American	1	-	-
NOT STATED	362	235	-
All Countries	38,136	37,757	-1.0

* *Special Administrative Region of China*

Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1999 - 2001

Month	Number		
	1999	2000	2001
January	59,680	62,355	65,122
February	41,859	50,466	49,464
March	50,707	54,872	55,944
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>152,246</u>	<u>167,693</u>	<u>170,530</u>
April	41,536	56,353	
May	42,254	49,960	
June	35,910	39,885	
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>119,700</u>	<u>146,198</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>271,946</i>	<i>313,891</i>	
July	42,862	51,577	
August	57,321	59,731	
September	41,383	47,634	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>141,566</u>	<u>158,942</u>	
October	55,128	61,526	
November	56,584	57,334	
December	52,861	64,760	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>164,573</u>	<u>183,620</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>306,139</i>	<i>342,562</i>	
Whole Year	578,085	656,453	

**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
1st Quarter 2000 / 2001**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 2000	1st Quarter 2001	% Change
Holiday	154,584	157,012	1.6
Business	5,478	5,592	2.1
Transit	4,723	5,050	6.9
Conference	776	759	-2.2
Sports	113	171	51.3
Other & Not Stated	2,019	1,946	-3.6
Total	167,693	170,530	1.7

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 2000 and 2001

Country of residence	1st Quarter 2000	2001				% Change 1999/2000
		Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Quarter	
EUROPE	115,274	40,151	38,192	39,388	117,731	2.1
Austria	2,770	710	693	1,106	2,509	-9.4
Belgium	2,654	805	928	943	2,676	0.8
France	56,035	19,921	18,081	18,314	56,316	0.5
Germany	13,432	4,694	4,643	4,937	14,274	6.3
Italy	14,192	5,369	4,171	3,963	13,503	-4.9
Netherlands	1,089	295	405	448	1,148	5.4
Spain	1,021	276	254	472	1,002	-1.9
Sweden	1,798	783	811	484	2,078	15.6
Switzerland	5,173	1,669	1,820	1,398	4,887	-5.5
United Kingdom	12,040	3,734	4,572	5,527	13,833	14.9
CIS	785	563	161	149	873	11.2
Other European	4,285	1,332	1,653	1,647	4,632	8.1
AFRICA	41,894	20,952	7,157	12,539	40,648	-3.0
Comoros	172	61	67	52	180	4.7
Kenya	298	65	124	118	307	3.0
Malagasy Rep.	1,725	465	475	486	1,426	-17.3
Reunion	26,189	15,631	2,650	6,795	25,076	-4.2
Seychelles	1,367	475	488	687	1,650	20.7
S/ Africa Rep. of	10,442	3,645	2,839	3,868	10,352	-0.9
Zimbabwe	517	209	148	194	551	6.6
Other African	1,184	401	366	339	1,106	-77.3
ASIA	6,960	2,435	2,847	2,697	7,979	14.6
Hong Kong SAR*	260	243	94	97	434	66.9
India	2,915	894	1,439	1,213	3,546	21.6
Japan	586	187	96	123	406	-30.7
Malaysia	457	100	320	255	675	47.7
P. Rep. of China	458	227	230	297	754	64.6
Singapore	1,019	321	208	182	711	-30.2
Other Asian	1,265	463	460	530	1,453	14.9
OCEANIA	1,532	684	566	668	1,918	25.2
Australia	1,436	618	531	632	1,781	24.0
Other Oceanian	96	66	35	36	137	42.7
AMERICA	1,674	888	688	646	2,222	32.7
USA	732	264	336	336	936	27.9
Canada	342	183	111	132	426	24.6
Other American	600	441	241	178	860	43.3
OTHER & N.STATED	359	12	14	6	32	-91.1
All Countries	167,693	65,122	49,464	55,944	170,530	1.7

* Special Administrative Region of China

**Chart 1 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,
January - March of 2000 and 2001**

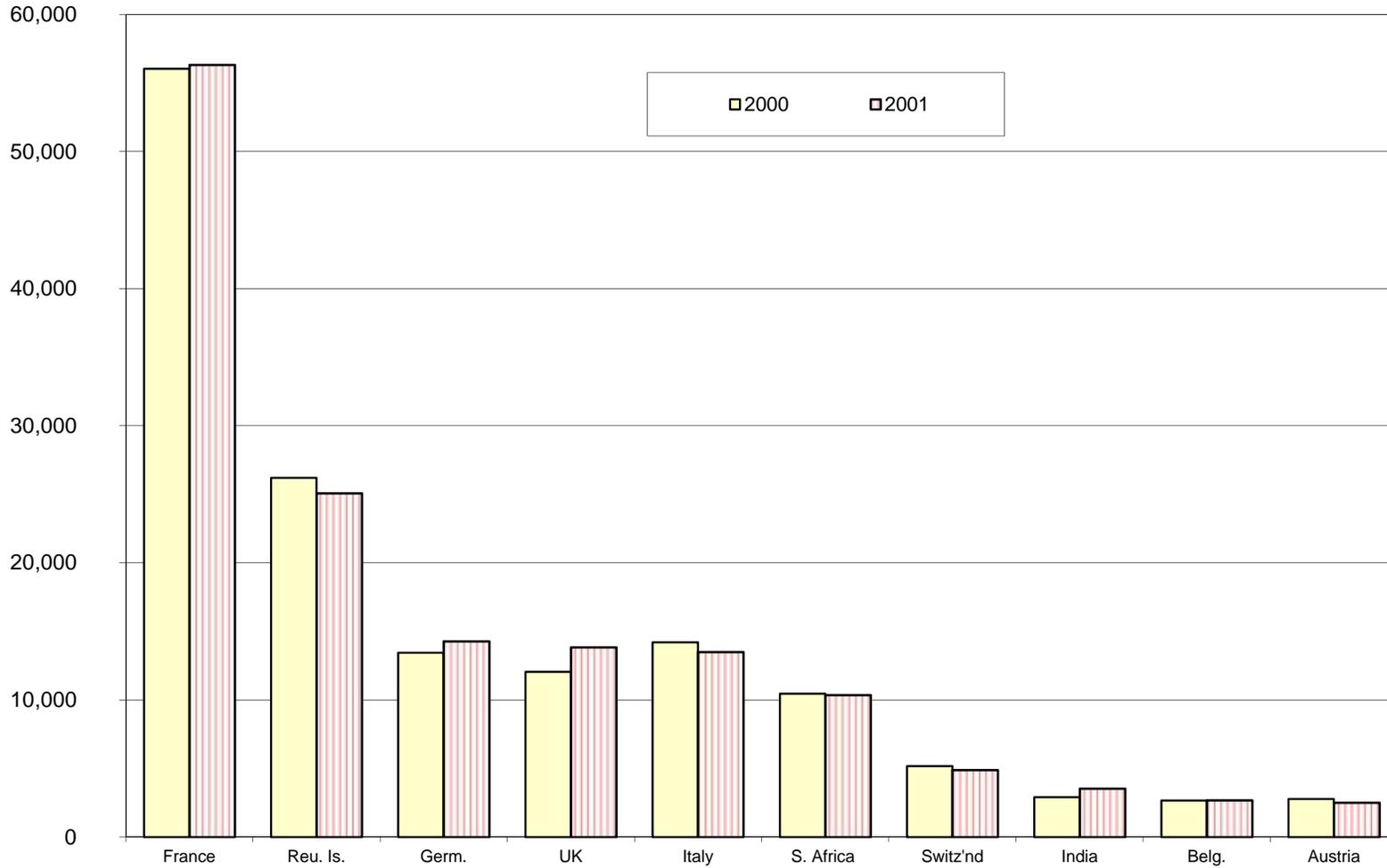


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1998 - 2001

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	1998	558,195	5,568	11,890
	1999	578,085	5,729	13,668
	2000	656,453	6,500	14,234
1999	1st Qr.	152,246	1,510	3,543
	2nd Qr.	119,700	1,190	2,898
	1st Semester	271,946	2,700	6,441
	3rd Qr.	141,566	1,400	3,300
	4th Qr.	164,573	1,629	3,927
	2nd Semester	306,139	3,029	7,227
2000	1st Qr.	167,693	1,650	3,985
	2nd Qr.	146,198	1,450	3,132
	1st Semester	313,891	3,100 *	7,117
	3rd Qr.	158,942	1,580	3,085
	4th Qr.	183,620	1,820	4,032
	2nd Semester	342,562	3,400 *	7,117
2001	1st Qr.	170,530	1,680 *	4,584 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius**Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1998 - 2001**

Year		Number as at end of period		
		Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces
	1998	90	7,267	14,995
	1999	92	8,255	16,947
	2000	95	8,657	17,776
1999	1st Qr.	90	7,426	15,289
	2nd Qr.	89	7,365	15,167
	3rd Qr.	91	7,903	16,243
	4th Qr.	92	8,255	16,947
2000	1st Qr.	92	8,269	16,975
	2nd Qr.	92	8,307	17,048
	3rd Qr.	93	8,388	17,238
	4th Qr.	95	8,657	17,776
2001	1st Qr.	95	8,667	17,796

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 1999 - 2001

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	1999		2000		2001*		1999		2000		2001*	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	79	69	73	64	74	65	83	74	75	67	78	69
February	73	64	73	64	67	59	77	68	77	68	70	63
March	71	62	71	62	68	60	76	67	72	64	72	64
1st Quarter	75	65	72	63	71	62	79	70	75	66	75	66
April	68	59	73	64			74	65	77	68		
May	67	59	67	58			73	64	71	63		
June	60	52	58	51			64	56	62	55		
2nd Quarter	65	57	66	58			70	62	70	62		
1st Semester	70	61	69	61			75	66	72	64		
July	65	57	61	53			70	62	64	57		
August	73	63	71	62			74	66	73	65		
September	73	64	73	64			77	68	76	67		
3rd Quarter	70	61	68	60			74	65	71	63		
October	77	68	77	67			83	73	79	70		
November	83	73	80	70			88	78	83	74		
December	61	54	69	60			62	55	71	63		
4th Quarter	74	64	75	66			77	68	78	69		
2nd Semester	72	63	72	63			75	67	74	66		
Whole Year	71	62	70	62			75	67	73	65		

* Provisional

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 1996 - 2000

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,154	1,118	1,389	1,288	1,134
Hotels	9,666	10,575	11,177	11,715	13,267
Travel and Tourism	3,596	3,732	3,924	4,108	4,170
Total	14,416	15,425	16,490	17,111	18,571

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments (March 2000).

Note: The above figures refer to large establishments only (i.e. employing 10 or more persons)